

## Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-05

LAB-04 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 L-02

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6901

INFO AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

USMISSION USBERLIN

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, GW, SCUL, OEXC

SUBJECT: GERMAN TRADE UNION FEDERATION (DGB) VIEWS ON  
EXCHANGES WITH AFL-CIO AND ON THE GERMAN MARSHALL FUND  
OF THE UNITED STATES

1. SUMMARY. ERWIN KRISTOFFERSEN, DIRECTOR DGB INTER-  
NATIONAL DEPARTMENT, OUTLINED TO THE EMBASSY LABATT DGB  
REACTIONS TO THE RECENT VISITS OF TWO DGB DELEGATIONS  
WITH THE AFL-CIO IN THE UNITED STATES, HIS PLANS TO  
ATTEND THE HARRISON HOUSE CONFERENCE IN NEW YORK AND  
DGB VIEWS ON THE GERMAN MARSHALL FUND IN THE UNITED  
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STATES. END SUMMARY.

2. DGB/AFL-CIO RELATIONS: ERWIN KRISTOFFERSEN, DIRECTOR GERMAN FEDERATION OF LABOR (DGB) INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT, INDICATED TO THE EMBASSY LABATT THAT THE DGB WAS SATISFIED WITH THE AFL-CIO RECEPTION OF THE TWO DELEGATIONS OF TOP YOUNG TRADE UNION LEADERS AND OF THE FOUR LABOR JOURNALISTS THAT THE DGB SENT TO THE UNITED STATES IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER. THE TIMING FOR THESE VISITS WAS NOT THE BEST BECAUSE THESE DELEGATIONS LOST SOME VISITING TIME DUE TO AMERICAN HOLIDAYS. THE DGB ALSO IS PLANNING ANOTHER DELEGATION VISIT TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 1975 AND HOPES THE ITINERARY WILL INCLUDE VISITS TO OTHER AREAS OF THE UNITED STATES. KRISTOFFERSEN HOPES TO WORK OUT PROGRAMMING DETAILS WITH THE AFL-CIO AND TO INVITE IRVING BROWN, AFL-CIO EUROPEAN REPRESENTATIVE, TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PRE-DEPARTURE BRIEFING.

3. HARRISON HOUSE CONFERENCE: KRISTOFFERSEN HAS BEEN INVITED BY THE GERMAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO BE A PART OF THE GERMAN DELEGATION TO THE HARRISON HOUSE CONFERENCE WHICH WILL BE HELD JANUARY 17-18, 1975, IN NEW YORK. KRISTOFFERSEN HOPES TO USE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS FUTURE DGB/AFL-CIO CONTACTS WITH ERNEST LEE, THE DIRECTOR OF THE AFL-CIO INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT, WHO HAS ALSO BEEN INVITED TO THIS CONFERENCE.

4. DGB AND AFL-CIO INVOLVEMENT IN GERMAN MARSHALL FUND ACTIVITIES: THE GERMAN MARSHALL FUND IN THE UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVES HAVE CONTACTED THE DGB BUT APPARENTLY HAVE NOT RESPONDED FAVORABLY TO DGB RECOMMENDATIONS THAT THE AFL-CIO BE INVITED TO PROPOSE A PERSON TO SERVE AS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE GERMAN MARSHALL FUND. ALSO THE GERMAN MARSHALL FUND HAS OPTED TO DEVELOP LABOR PROJECTS WITHOUT ANY INVOLVEMENT OF THE AFL-CIO. THE DGB BELIEVES THAT THIS PRACTICE IS COUNTER PRODUCTIVE IN TERMS OF IMPROVING RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE DGB AND THE AFL-CIO. FOR THE PAST YEAR, THE DGB HAS CLAIMED THAT IT HAS SUPPORTED THE ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT OF GEORGE MEANY AND THE AFL-CIO IN THE ACTIVELIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TIES OF THE GERMAN MARSHALL FUND AND HAS RECOMMENDED WITHOUT SUCCESS THAT LABOR PROJECTS BE JOINTLY DEVELOPED BETWEEN THE DGB AND AFL-CIO OR IN CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH THEM. INSTEAD THE MARSHALL FUND HAS CHOSEN TO DEAL WITH ONLY INDIVIDUAL SEGMENTS OF THE LABOR MOVEMENT IN THE UNITED STATES SO ITS LABOR PROJECTS SO FAR HAVE LITTLE SUPPORT IN EITHER NATIONAL TRADE UNION CENTER. UNFORTUNATELY THE GERMAN MARSHALL FUND IS ONE OF THE

FEW RESOURCES NOW AVAILABLE FOR IMPROVING THESE DGB AND  
AFL-CIO RELATIONSHIPS THAT PLAYED SUCH A SIGNIFICANT  
ROLE IN THE SUCCESS OF THE MARSHALL PLAN. DURING HIS  
FORTHCOMING VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES KRISTOFFERSEN IN-  
DICATED HE WILL TRY TO INFLUENCE THE GERMAN MARSHALL  
FUND TO TAKE CORRECTIVE ACTION AND INFORM THE GERMAN  
MARSHALL FUND REPRESENTATIVES THAT LABOR SUPPORT FOR ITS  
PROGRAM AND SUCCESSFUL LABOR PROJECTS WILL DEPEND  
LARGELY ON THE ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT OF THE AFL-CIO AND THE  
DGB IN THIS FOUNDATION AND ITS ACTIVITIES.  
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